

# DAILY BULLETIN

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## U.S. ANNOUNCES PLANS TO RESTORE DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH LIBYA

Libya to be removed from list of state sponsors of terror, says Rice

By David I. McKeeby  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The United States soon will re-establish full diplomatic relations with Libya, based on Tripoli's 2003 decision to renounce its sponsorship of terrorism and to eliminate its programs for production of weapons of mass destruction, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced May 15.

"As a direct result of those decisions we have witnessed the beginning of that country's re-emergence into the mainstream of the international community. Today marks the opening of a new era in U.S.-Libya relations that will benefit Americans and Libyans alike," Rice said in a May 15 statement.

Rice announced that in the immediate term, the United States would re-open its embassy in Tripoli and remove Libya from the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism. In addition, the United States no longer will cite Libya as a country not fully cooperating with U.S.-led counterterrorism efforts.

The secretary praised decisions by Libya's leaders to heed the international community's call to renounce their past association with terrorism and called on Iranian and North Korean leaders to consider this example.

## REFLECTING ON A REFORMED ROGUE STATE

The announcement was the culmination of several years of diplomacy, which David Welch, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, characterized as “a careful step-by-step process designed to acknowledge progress by Libya while continuing our review at every stage.”

Welch was among several senior State Department officials on hand at a May 15 press briefing to discuss the implications of the announcement for U.S.-Libya relations. Following a 1973 coup, Libya instituted a repressive domestic regime and utilized the country’s oil profits to support terrorist organizations and activities, including the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, the 1986 bombing of a Berlin nightclub and the 1989 bombing of French UTA Flight 772 over Niger.

The United States responded with air strikes against Libya in 1986, designated it as a state sponsor of terrorism, and imposed more than 20 types of economic sanctions. The international community joined in reproaching Libya’s behavior with the passage of U.N. Security Council resolutions 731 and 748, extending additional economic sanctions until Libyan leaders agreed to extradite Pan Am 103 bombing suspects.

## AN EXAMPLE WORTH EMULATING

Welch said that the Libyan government turned those suspects over for trial in 1999 and in 2001 Libyan officials began working to meet the conditions needed to lift U.N. sanctions.

In 2003, U.N. sanctions were lifted following Libya’s decision to provide up to \$2.7 billion in compensation to the victims’ families, fully cooperate with the investigation, and officially pledge to the Security Council that it never again would support terrorism.

Not only has Libya renounced terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, it now has become a significant partner in the global war on terrorism, said Henry Crumpton, the State Department’s counterterrorism coordinator.

Crumpton told reporters that Libya has been instrumental in tracking the movements of operatives from al-Qaida and associated networks across the region. As further evidence of its commitment to combat terror, he said Libya has signed 12 international counterterrorism conventions.

Though listed among state sponsors of terrorism in the recently published Country Reports on Terrorism 2005, the report credited Libya with making marked improvements in international cooperation. “The cooperation in intelligence is strong and getting stronger. They have made direct and important contributions to our national security,” Crumpton added.

After announcing that it would dismantle chemical and nuclear weapons programs in 2003, Libyan officials proceeded with “tremendous transparency and with great rapidity,” said Paula DeSutter, assistant secretary of state for verification, compliance and implementation.

DeSutter said that Libya’s pursuit of weapons led to an association with A.Q. Khan, the Pakistani weapons scientist who operated an international black market, selling nuclear weapons technologies to several countries, including Iran and North Korea. She said Libya provided the United States weapons designs and other “items of great interest” purchased through the Khan network that may help shed light on the activities of other would-be proliferators.

Rice’s statement:

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/66235.htm>

as well fact sheets detailing elements of U.S. Libya relations: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/66235.htm> are available on the State Department Web site

## U.S. WEATHER SERVICE READIES ATLANTIC COMMUNITIES FOR TSUNAMI

Warning system is in place, now coastal regions must prepare

By Cheryl Pellerin  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – One month after completing the expansion of its tsunami warning system to the U.S. East and Gulf coasts and the Caribbean, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) has recognized Mayagüez as the first TsunamiReady community in the commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

Mayagüez, the fifth largest city on the island, joins 28 other TsunamiReady communities in seven states. TsunamiReady is a voluntary NWS program designed to educate local emergency management officials and promote well-designed, community-specific tsunami emergency response plans.

“With our expanding tsunami observation and communications network,” said NWS Director David Johnson, “our forecasters already have the capability to monitor conditions and warn for tsunamis in the Caribbean and along the nation’s East and Gulf coasts.”

The NWS, Johnson added, has “also completed deployment of five Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami DART buoy stations to help protect coastal populations in the region.”

#### DEEP OCEAN TSUNAMI REPORTING

The DART system is designed to provide real-time tsunami detection as waves travel across the open ocean. (See related article.)

The new stations are equipped with advanced two-way satellite communications that enables forecasters to receive and retrieve critical data.

When the entire system of 39 buoy stations is complete in 2008, seven DARTs will be deployed in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

Located on the island’s west coast, Mayagüez has a population of 105,000, nearly a third of whom live and work in areas considered vulnerable to a tsunami. Of particular concern is the Puerto Rico Trench to the northwest. Highly susceptible to seismic activity, the trench is a boundary between the Caribbean, North American and South American tectonic plates.

Since 1848, eight tsunamis have originated there, causing more than 2,500 deaths. In 1918, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake in the trench resulted in a tsunami that killed 116 people in Puerto Rico.

#### TSUNAMI READY

Working closely with the NWS forecast office in San Juan and the Puerto Rico seismic network, Mayagüez completed a rigorous set of warning and evacuation criteria to meet the guidelines for TsunamiReady recognition.

“While no community can be tsunami proof, Mayagüez now has the means to minimize the threat to the public,” said Bill Proenza, director of the NWS southern region.

To be recognized as TsunamiReady, a community must establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; develop multiple ways to receive tsunami warnings and alert the public, develop a formal tsunami hazard plan and conduct emergency exercises and promote public readiness through community education.

“A tsunami may not strike for many generations, but then again, it could happen within a year,” Proenza said. “We now look forward to expanding the program to include other coastal communities and eventually the entire island.”

City officials received a recognition letter and special TsunamiReady signs in a ceremony at the municipal building in Mayagüez. The recognition will be in effect for three years before the city undergoes a renewal process.

Information about the National Weather Service and the TsunamiReady program is available at the NOAA Web site: <http://nws.noaa.gov/>

#### U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY HEAD TO VISIT BRUSSELS, PARIS

Talks to focus on joint work on pollution, environmental health

Washington -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Stephen Johnson is traveling to Brussels and Paris to further collaboration on environmental issues with European partners.

Johnson will continue to advance his goal of accelerating environmental protection while keeping the U.S. economically competitive, according to a May 15 EPA press release.

“Although newspaper headlines tend to focus on our differences,” Johnson said, “the United States and Europe are joined by some of the strongest ties in the world.”

In Brussels, Johnson will meet with officials of the European Commission, the executive branch of the European Union. Discussions will focus on key areas of cooperation, including joint research projects on air and water pollution, environmental health, toxic substances and pesticides.

Also on the agenda are coordination with U.S. embassies and with Western European donor countries on environmental assistance programs for Eastern Europe, the Newly Independent States, and other parts of the world, EPA said.

In Paris, Johnson will confer with officials of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

He will also discuss U.S.-French environmental cooperation with U.S. Ambassador to France Craig Stapleton and French Minister-designate of Ecology Nelly Olin.

"In the U.S., we recognize our environmental responsibility does not stop at our borders," Johnson said. "While sometimes we may differ on the means, the U.S. and Europe agree on the ends of working together to promote a healthier, safer environment for our home nations and our global neighbors."

In line with the U.S. position that environmental progress and economic prosperity are intertwined, Johnson will share lessons learned and ideas on environmental challenges ahead.

He will also discuss the importance of technology in solving energy issues, especially technology that supports more efficient and economical production of renewable fuels.

Additional information on the EPA's work with Europe and the full text of the press release is available on the EPA Web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/oia/regions/Europe/index.html>

For information on U.S. policy, see Environment:  
[http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/environment.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment.html)

## U.S. NOTES ANNIVERSARY OF TRAGEDY IN ANDIJON, UZBEKISTAN

On one-year anniversary, again calls for full, transparent investigation

Washington -- Commemorating the one-year anniversary of the Andijon tragedy in Uzbekistan, the United States May 12 again called on the government of Uzbekistan to allow an international investigation and to cease its crackdown on civil society. The United States, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations and others repeatedly have urged the Uzbek government to cooperate in a credible investigation of the 2005 events in Andijon and to permit international humanitarian organizations full access to the region.

On May 12-13, 2005, Uzbek security forces responded to the violent takeover of government buildings in the city of Andijon by shooting indiscriminately at a crowd of largely peaceful protestors. The Uzbek government has maintained that 187 died in the violence, almost all of them security forces or violent protestors and insurrectionists. However, international estimates of the dead have ranged from 500 to 1,000, most of them peaceful, unarmed protestors including women and children.

"A year after the tragic events in Andijon, the government of Uzbekistan still owes the victims and their survivors a full accounting of what took place," the State Department said in a May 12 press statement. "Numerous eyewitness reports of security forces shooting and killing several hundred men, women and children have not been adequately addressed."

On May 9, two prominent U.S. lawmakers said they were reintroducing legislation in Congress to fund the promotion of democracy and human rights in Central Asia. The legislation also would prevent U.S. funding from going to the Uzbek government unless the secretary of state determines the government is "making substantial and continuing progress" toward respect for human rights and the Uzbek government begins a "credible international investigation" of Andijon.

**Pleases Note:** Most texts and transcript mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage: <http://geneva.usmission.gov/>

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